JUSTICE LEAGUE®

TASK FORCE™

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JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE

12

MAY 94

FRIEDMAN, VELLUTO & ALBRECHT

TARGET: EARTH

Velluto
Albrecht

WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING, MY FRIENDS. I'M GLAD YOU COULD BE HERE TO JOIN US-- IF ONLY IN SPIRIT-- FOR OUR MOMENT OF TRIUMPH!

NOT FAR FROM HERE, MY SCIENTIFIC TEAM IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH A VERY SPECIAL MISSILE--ONE THAT WILL INJECT THE VIRUS THEY DEVELOPED INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

WITHIN DAYS, EVERY NON-ARYAN IN NORTH AMERICA WILL HAVE PERISHED--AND SOON AFTER THAT, THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL FOLLOW SUIT.

NOR ARE YOU IN ANY POSITION TO PREVENT IT. NOT WHEN YOU'VE BEEN ENSCONCED IN A TRIPLE-THICK-WALLED CELL, BUILT FOR HOLDING AND PUNISHING ANY INFERIORS WHO HAPPENED TO STUMBLE ON THIS INSTALLATION.

The Purification PLAGUE

PART THREE: ANGEL OF INJUSTICE

MICHAEL JAN FRIEDMAN~ WRITER • SAL VELLUTO~ PENCILLER
JEFF ALBRECHT~ INKER • BOB PINAHA~ LETTERER • GLENN WHITMORE~ COLORIST • RUBEN DIAZ~ ASSISTANT EDITOR
BRIAN AUGUSTYN~ EDITOR

I SHOULD ALSO TELL YOU THAT THE FLOOR OF YOUR CELL RESTS ON A HIGH-POWERED ELECTRICAL GRID. ONE FALSE MOVE--AND THAT INCLUDES ANY ATTEMPTS AT INVISIBILITY OR TELEKINESIS--AND MY GUARDS HERE WILL TURN ON THE JUICE.

AT THE HIGHEST SETTING, IT WILL KILL YOU INSTANTLY--WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE MARTIAN. IN HIS CASE, IT MAY TAKE A BIT LONGER.

OF COURSE, NONE OF YOU CAN SEE THOSE GUARDS--AGAIN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MARTIAN. BUT TRUST ME, THEY CAN SEE YOU.

EVEN IF YOU SOMEHOW ESCAPED FROM YOUR CELL, YOU WOULDN'T ESCAPE FROM THEM.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE STUDIED UPON YOU--AS I'VE STUDIED ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR CAUSE. THOUGH I MUST ADMIT, I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND YOU HERE.

TOO BAD NONE OF YOU ARE BIOCHEMISTS. I'M QUITE PROUD OF THE WORK WE'VE DONE HERE.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THERE ARE DOZENS OF DISEASES WITH RACIAL PREDILECTIONS--DISEASES THAT TAKE THEIR CUE FROM CERTAIN CELL-SURFACE IDENTIFICATION MARKERS.

WE HAVE SIMPLY ISOLATED A MARKER COMMON TO ALL NON-ARYAN POPULATIONS--AND TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF IT.

AT FIRST, THE VICTIM SUFFERS ONLY A SMALL RASH ON HIS FACE. BUT BEFORE IT'S OVER, DEATH COMES HIDEOUSLY AND QUITE PAINFULLY--AS IT SHOULD.

OF COURSE, NONE OF YOU WILL LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO PUT THIS KNOWLEDGE TO USE. IN FACT, YOU'LL DIE EVEN BEFORE THE MONGREL HORDES OF AMERICA DO.

AND THAT'S A PITY, CONSIDERING AT LEAST A FEW OF YOU SEEM TO BE AS ARYAN AS WE ARE. BUT THAT'S THE WAY THE TACO CRUMBLES, EH?

I'D STAY AND CHAT A WHILE, BUT WE'VE HAD TO MOVE THE LAUNCH UP EVEN EARLIER--JUST IN CASE THERE ARE ANY MORE OF YOUR KIND HEADED THIS WAY.

IT'S TIME TO RALLY MY FOLLOWERS. AND WHEN THE RALLY'S OVER...

...WE WILL TAKE BACK WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS!

IT NEVER FAILS.

THOSE MEGALOMANIACS ALL SEEM TO GET THEIR LINES OUT OF THE SAME BOOK.

DOES HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE VIRUS HELP YOU AT ALL?

THAT ALL DEPENDS ON THE--

--WAIT A MINUTE. OUR FRIEND THE LEADER IS COMING OUT OF THERE. WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO IN.

YOU KNOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, REX. WITHOUT YOUR POWERS--

YOU DIDN'T BRING ME ALONG TO BE A BYSTANDER, J'ONN. IF IT WAS THE ARYAN BRIGADE WATCHING THE DOOR, I MIGHT HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS--BUT THEY SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THIS "OLD MAN" FOR THE TIME BEING.

AND I DON'T THINK THEY'LL WAIT TILL MY POWERS RETURN TO LAUNCH THAT ROCKET OF THEIRS.

TOO LONG HAVE WE BEEN FORCED TO SHARE THIS GREAT LAND WITH THOSE INFERIORS SO FAR BENEATH US.

TOO LONG HAS THE TRUE AMERICAN BEEN SHACKLED WITH THE BURDEN OF THE MONGREL RACES.

IT IS TIME WE STRUCK A BLOW FOR THE MASTER RACE-- A BLOW THAT WILL RESTORE US TO OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD.

DO WE HAVE THE COURAGE FOR THIS UNDERTAKING? DO WE HAVE THE STRENGTH OF SPIRIT?

WE HAVE THE COURAGE! WE HAVE THE SPIRIT!

I SEE A FUTURE IN WHICH ONLY TRUE AMERICANS ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO LIVE AND WORK AND WORSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY.

"I SEE A NEW LIGHT IN THE SKY... AN ANGEL OF RETRIBUTION WHO WILL-- IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE-- WIPE OUT ALL THE INJUSTICES HEAPED UPON US..."

AN ANGEL WHO HERALDS THE COMING OF A BRIGHT, NEW DAY... A PURE DAY... AN ARYAN DAY!

TIME TO PUT MY MONEY WHERE MY MOUTH IS.

UMMF!

IF I HADN'T SAVED THAT LITTLE GIRL YESTERDAY, I'D HAVE MY POWERS NOW-- WHEN I REALLY NEED THEM.

NO--CAN'T THINK THAT WAY. I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT I'VE GOT.

SMEK

AFTER ALL, THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD TO GET A JOB DONE IN BETWEEN POWER HOURS.

WHAT THE--?

KRAK

I KNOW YOU... YOU'RE HOURMAN. YOU WERE MY HERO WHEN I WAS A BOY.

JUST STAY OUT OF MY WAY AND YOU WON'T GET HURT.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE PART OF THIS. I DIDN'T KNOW, I SWEAR IT!

BUT IF YOU'RE HERE, MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

MAYBE THEY CAN STILL BE STOPPED!

DAMN!

SKRATATATA

FASCIST MURDERER! HE WAS ONE OF YOURS!

KROK

AN INTRUDER!

GOT TO THROW THE SWITCH BEFORE THEY CAN ESCAPE-- OR THE LEADER WILL HAVE ME ELECTRIFIED!

AAGH!

BRAAK-AK-AK

GOOD WORK, REX. NOW LET'S SEE TO THAT MISSILE.

THOKK

SOMETHING'S GOING ON OUT THERE--ISN'T IT?

YES. REX HAS BROKEN IN AND DISABLED THE GUARDS.

I DIDN'T DARE TRY THIS WHILE WE WERE BEING WATCHED-- BUT NOW I CAN GET RID OF THESE THINGS!

KREESH

AND I CAN GET RID OF THIS!

COLTRANE AND SCHULTE OUGHT TO BE HERE ANY--

THOOM

WHAT WAS THAT?

WHAT IN THE NAME OF GOD...?

I WOULDN'T INVOKE ANY GODS IF I WERE YOU...

...BECAUSE THEY SURELY DON'T SANCTION THIS!

THE MISSILE--IT CAN STILL BE STOPPED!

--FOOL! THE LAUNCH PROCEDURE BEGAN MINUTES AGO!

NO ONE CAN STOP IT NOW!

LEAST OF ALL A BUNCH OF INFERIORS LIKE YOU!

THE BRIGADE!

DODGE ALL YOU LIKE, STRETCHMARK. IN THE END, YOU'LL BE NOTHING BUT SCRAPS!

DON'T BE TOO SURE ABOUT THAT, AMIGO. THIS TIME, WE'RE READY FOR YOU.

AND THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!

YOU'RE MAKING YOURSELF TOO EASY A TARGET, RACE-TRAITOR!

AM I?

I GUESS APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING--SOMETHING A GUY LIKE YOU WOULD NEVER THINK OF!

KRUNCH

IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU MONGRELS DO TO MY COMRADES--AS LONG AS BLIND FAITH IS HERE TO PICK UP THE SLACK.

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT I CAN DO TO YOUR MINDS?

YOU'LL HAVE TO REMIND US, LADY--AFTER YOU WAKE UP!

THUDD!

NOBODY HURTS BLIND FAITH!

I BEG TO DIFFER. SOMEBODY JUST DID!

RONNCH

YEAGGH!

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH TO DISABLE THE LIKES OF IRON CROSS--

KRUNK

--BUT THIS WILL!

DAMN--THEY WERE RIGHT. THE MISSILE CAN'T BE STOPPED. AND THERE'S NO WAY TO NEUTRALIZE THE VIRUS EITHER.

TOO BAD, ISN'T IT? BUT IT WON'T KEEP ME FROM SLAGGING YOU!

HSSSSSSS

BETTER WOMEN THAN YOU HAVE TRIED, HEATMONGER--WITH MUCH THE SAME RESULTS!

JOKE ALL YOU LIKE, OLD--

OLD MAN?

SAY WHAT YOU LIKE, HE'S STILL STANDING ON HIS OWN TWO FEET--WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU!

THE MISSILE'S TAKING OFF!

IT CAN'T! WE CAN'T LET IT!

I CAN GRAB HOLD OF IT... MAYBE SLOW IT DOWN!

NO, RALPH--IT'S TOO HOT!

UNNGH!

I CAN'T STOP IT EITHER... CAN'T EVEN NUDGE IT OFF ITS COURSE!

"J'ONN'S OUR LAST HOPE. IF HE CAN'T GROUND IT, NO ONE CAN!"

I CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN. NOT HERE.

A PLAGUE KILLED MY WIFE... MY DAUGHTER.

MY CIVILIZATION.

I WON'T LET A PLAGUE TAKE THIS WORLD TOO.

DAMN. WHOEVER DESIGNED THIS PROPULSION SYSTEM DID TOO GOOD A JOB.

CAN'T BE MORE THAN A MINUTE BEFORE IT DISGORGES ITS PAYLOAD, RAINING DEATH ON HALF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE.

THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY TO STOP IT.

THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY.

WAIT...

...I'VE BEEN PULLING BACK ON IT.

MAYBE THAT'S THE WRONG APPROACH.

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO GIVE IT...

...A PUSH.

AIR GETTING THIN... TOO THIN TO BREATHE... BUT I CAN'T LET THIS GO OFF WHILE IT'S STILL IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

ANY SECOND NOW...!

DID IT.

EFWORLD

LORD... THE ROCKET'S *RELEASED* ITS PAYLOAD!

THEN J'ONN...?

DON'T COUNT HIM OUT *YET*, GYPSY. J'ONN'S A *TROOPER*. MAYBE HE FOUND A *WAY*.

IN FACT, REX, I *DID* FIND A WAY. THE *VIRUS* WAS DISCHARGED INTO THE *VACUUM* OF SPACE. EARTH IS *SAFE* FROM IT.

J'ONN!

YES!

WHAT IS THE *MEANING* OF THIS?

HUH?

IT'S THE ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE *LEADER!*

YOU *ESCAPED*-- AND YOU'VE STOPPED OUR *MISSILE*-- BUT WE'RE NOT *FINISHED* YET!

CC

YOU SEE, I HAVE A VIAL *FULL* OF THE VIRUS RIGHT *HERE*-- AS A LITTLE *BACKUP* MEASURE. AND EVEN *WITHOUT* THE MISSILE, IT'LL SPREAD LIKE *WILDFIRE*.

COVER ME, MEN!

YOU GOT IT, BOSS!

BRAAT-AT-T

NOT SO FAST, HATE-PEDDLER!

WHO IN THE--?

TWACK!

I'LL SHOW MY *FATHER* THAT HE WAS *WRONG* ABOUT ME!

I'LL *LEAD* MY PEOPLE TO--!

YOU'VE SHATTERED THE *VIAL*!

YOU CAN'T *STOP* ME! *NO ONE* CAN STOP IT! THE *ARYAN KINGDOM* IS PREORDAINED!

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I CAN STILL SPREAD THE VIRUS BY OPENING THIS ELEVATOR TO THE AIR OUTSIDE.

BUT YOU WON'T LIVE TO SEE IT, WILL YOU? NOT WHEN I--

--OH, MY GOD... NO. IT CAN'T BE, I TELL YOU... IT CAN'T BE.

WHAT IS IT, MAN?

THE RASH!

IT'S WHAT THE INFERIORS WERE SUPPOSED TO GET...BEFORE THEY DIED IN AGONY.

BUT NOT ME! HOW COULD THIS BE HAPPENING TO ME?

TING

UNLESS... THERE'S SOME OF THEM IN ME. SOME OF THEIR MONGREL BLOOD. AND I NEVER KNEW.

ALL THIS TIME... ALL MY LIFE... HATING THEM, PLOTTING THEIR DESTRUCTION... AND I NEVER KNEW.

IS THAT WHY YOU ALWAYS BEAT ME, FATHER? BECAUSE DEEP DOWN INSIDE, WE WERE JUST LIKE...THEM?

"HE WAS A STATE SENATOR, BELIEVE IT OR NOT. SENATOR SANDER HOTCHKINS."

PRETTY POPULAR IN THESE PARTS, TOO. PLANNED TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT SOME DAY, FROM WHAT I HEAR.

AND NOW HE'S BECOME THE VICTIM OF THE SAME DISEASE HE'D HAVE INFLICTED ON OTHERS. SOUNDS LIKE SOME SORT OF JUSTICE TO ME.

FBI

REX--HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

TERRIBLE!

I'VE NEVER HAD SO MANY ACHES AND PAINS IN MY ENTIRE LIFE--AND I'VE GOT TO WEAR THIS ITCHY SUIT FOR THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, UNTIL THE VIRUS CLEARS OUT OF MY SYSTEM.

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU CAME ALONG THIS TIME, MY FRIEND. WE WOULD NEVER HAVE SUCCEEDED WITHOUT YOU.

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT--BUT THANKS ANYWAY.

I'M NOT SORRY TO SEE THEM GET PUT AWAY. AND WITH ANY LUCK, IT'LL BE FOR A WHILE.

FBI

HEY, T-BOLT--THE BATTLE'S OVER AND THE GOOD GUYS WON. WHY THE KNITTED BROW?

NO OFFENSE, J'ONN, BUT NEXT TIME, LEAVE ME OUT. FROM NOW ON, I THINK I'LL LEAVE THE WORLD-SAVING TO YOUNGER MEN.

CONSIDERING ALL THEY'RE GUILTY OF, IT COULD BE A LONG WHILE.

IT'S NOTHING, REALLY. I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF THERE ISN'T MORE HERE THAN MEETS THE--

HEY, TRAITOR! HOW'S IT FEEL TO RAT OUT YOUR OWN KIND? I SHOULD'VE FIGURED YOU FOR A BACKSTABBER AS SOON AS I LAID EYES ON YOU!

STEVE...

FBI

DON'T THINK WE'RE DONE YET, PETEY-BOY! PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT HAPPENED HERE TODAY. AND THEN WE'LL RISE UP AGAIN-- TO BITE THE HEADS OFF FOREIGNER-LOVING SNAKES LIKE YOU!

FBI

FBI

...I WISH YOU'D RECONSIDER, STEVE. BECAUSE AS MANY TIMES AS THAT KIND OF HATRED RISES UP, I'M GOING TO BE THERE TO STAMP IT OUT AGAIN.

FBI

FBI

SKRRRCH!

AND WHAT'S MORE, HE'S NOT GOING TO BE ALONE.

STINKING MONGREL-LOVER!

J'ONN SAYS GUYS LIKE THESE ARE JUST MISGUIDED...THAT THEY CAN BE SHOWN THE LIGHT.

FBI

BUT IN SOME CASES, I'VE GOT TO DISAGREE.

"AREN'T THEY HERE YET?"

"THEY'RE DUE ANY MOMENT, MISTER MARTIN."

"BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID HALF AN HOUR AGO!"

IT TAKES TIME TO FLY HERE FROM NEBRASKA, SIR. EVEN FOR HIM!

OF COURSE IT DOES! BUT WHY CAN'T HE FLY A LITTLE FASTER?

NEVER MIND--I SEE HIM. AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!

J'ONN! IT'S ABOUT TIME!

IS SOMETHING WRONG, HANNIBAL?

YOU BET SOMETHING'S WRONG!

IT COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG--AS YOU'LL SEE IN A MOMENT!

HONESTLY, HANNIBAL. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE SO URGENT?

A GOOD QUESTION...

OH, MY GOD! IT'S HIM!

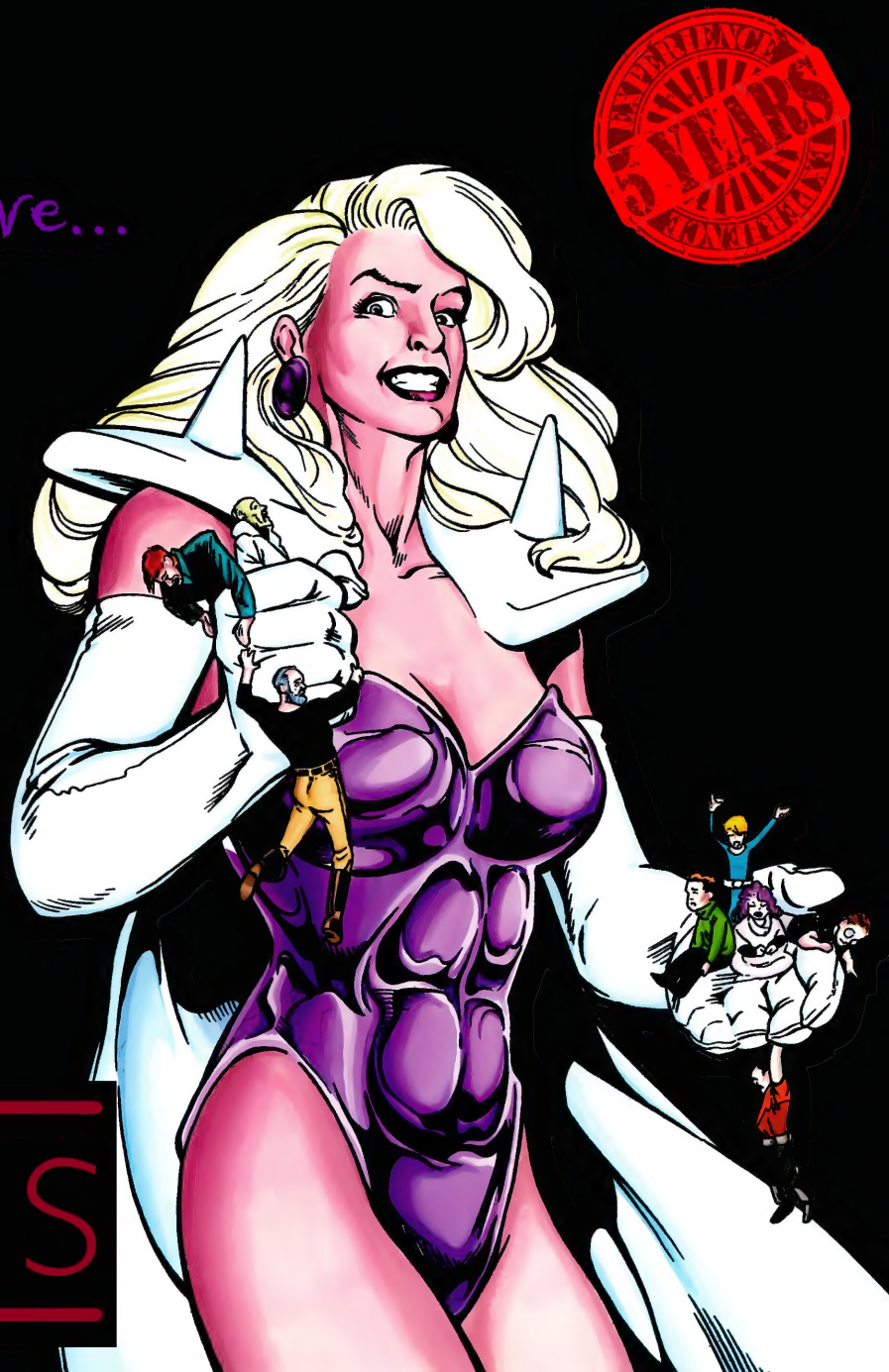
IN THE FLESH, MY DEAR.

DESPERO!

GOOD TO SEE *YOU* AGAIN TOO, J'ONN. AND *WELCOME* TO THE END OF THE *WORLD!*

TO BE CONTINUED!

From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

novus